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## Colombia Handbook, 3rd: Tread Your Own Path (Footprint - Travel Guides)

Charlie Devereux

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**Charlie Devereux : Colombia Handbook, 3rd: Tread Your Own Path (Footprint - Travel Guides)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Colombia Handbook, 3rd: Tread Your Own Path (Footprint - Travel Guides):

19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Though slightly dated this is very good, comprehensive guide. By fdoamerica I was in Colombia for three months and used this guide continually. Peter Pollock writes for a broad audience, but he excels in providing insightful caveats for the adventuresome and ecologically focused traveler. He has information on shipping motorcycles and automobiles to Columbia. He has an excellent section on health, and his 'Background' section is succinct and informative (History, Culture Etc.). He covers the normal tourist destinations and encourages exploration of places that 99% of visitors to Colombia would miss (Tayrona National Park, Ciudad Perdida, etc.). His accommodations and dining recommendations are adequate, generally accurate, reliable but are becoming outdated. Luckily, although this guide has been out for three years, the prices for lodging in Colombia have stayed relatively stable and accurate and eight out of the ten hotels I selected to visit in Bogota were still open.

**AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:** A serious omission for this 2000 guide is the absence of hotel web pages and hotel email addresses. Electronic addresses have become a "must have" for any competitive guide book. A good hotel web page allows you to view the property, get current rates (and specials), view the property and rooms and make an on-line reservations. This is a must for the next edition. Good maps are essential in a guide. Bogota, Cartagena, Barranquilla, Cali and Medellin are sprawling cities that desperately need good maps. Bogota has four maps, but they are upside down! Normally maps are oriented with North at the top of the page, not so here, North is at the bottom and South at the top. I had a hell-of-a-time orienting myself, until I got my compass out and discovered this wacko lay out. Also confusing are references to map numbers that don't exist. Pollard mentions a number, IE in the Bogota section, 'Hacienda Santa Barbra #3 on the map', but the publisher did not print the numbers on the map. His recommended sleeping locations are noted on the maps, but not restaurants. Needless to say, this is an important area that needs significant improvement. The above shortcomings notwithstanding, you will not want to go to Colombia without this guide. I strongly Recommend it.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Hopefully this isn't the best. By Brett Sheppard I'm just back from several weeks in Colombia, and did a great deal of research in selecting a guide book for the trip. The information I gathered from many reviews and websites suggested that the Footprints guide was the best out there at this time. And I have to say that it did do its job -- without it I would have been lost. It was sufficient. But really could be much, much improved. Some of the main issues I have with it are in regards to directions, maps, etc. Many of the directions given in the "Ins and Outs" section are for people driving. Only driving directions, nothing on how to reach the center of town from the bus station, or the best way to connect on buses to reach a particular destination. I really don't know anyone who travels in South America and opts to rent a car. Also, there are not enough maps given to give someone who likes to travel independently enough information to just get on the street and go for it. Further, when maps aren't included, the written directions that are supposed to substitute in are incredibly poorly written, at times confusing. Whereas, in comparison, I referenced a Lonely Planet guide while on the trip, and the directions they had written out were extraordinarily detailed, which gives so much more confidence to a person setting out on his/her own. Further, there was more than once where the information given in a certain section was contradicted by other information given in the same section. Finally -- and this is my biggest criticism -- the number of punctuation and grammar errors are astounding. Seriously, that part is absolutely pathetic, and it calls into question the professionalism of the outfit and accuracy of the rest of the information. It was so bad at times as to render the sentence unintelligible. This is simply unforgivable. I've since learned that the "scandal" regarding the Lonely Planet version was greatly overblown. If the writing and style of LP generally resonates with you, and I say to definitely go that route. There may not be a great book on Colombia out there, but it's best not to let that channel you toward this level of mediocrity.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Uninspired. By RSThis is the most unenthusiastic guide book I've ever read. This is how it reads: If you are in city A, you have the option to go to see X, Y and Z. This is what you will see at X... This is what you will see at Y... This is what you will see at Z... The least they could have done is throw in some pictures to accompany their lackluster descriptions, but they don't. This book might help you if you already have an itinerary planned out and you want to look for specifics of how to get around or where to eat, shop or stay. If you're looking for a book to recommend where you should go, what you should see and do, and how to decide between the options given a limited amount of time, this is not the book for you.

Colombia is back on the tourist map. This land of coffee, emeralds, and Gabriel Garca Mrquezs magical realism is emerging from decades of drugs and violence to wow visitors with its vibrant culture and little-known attractions, plus mud volcanoes to bathe in, acres of flowers, coffee farms to visit, and a CD librarys worth of music festivals. But fear not: Footprints 3rd edition of Colombia is now at hand to make sense of it all and help you get the most from this vivacious country.

**About the Author** Charlie Devereux is a photographer and journalist who, after being born in Panama spent the next 9 years in Latin America. He has traveled the region extensively and now lives in Venezuela.